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REMARKS

In the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, the Examiner cited many excerpts from various claims of the allowed set of Claims 18-111. In response, applicant notes that some of such excerpts can be found nowhere in some of the claims. Just by way of example, the independent claims between Claims 67-79 do not include at least a portion of the excerpts cited by the Examiner. Nevertheless, applicant believes that such claims (i.e. Claims 67-79) are allowable.

In the Response to Rule 312 Communication, the Examiner has disagreed with the applicant's above comments. In particular, the Examiner has argued that "the portion including the allowable features in claims 67-79 is 'A method for multiple-pass rendering in a plurality of pipelines using conservative occlusion culling, comprising: during a first pass in a first pipeline, passing objects from an input stream to a culling stage of the first pipeline for creating an occlusion image in a first depth buffer requiring a first amount of storage; and during a second pass in a second pipeline, sending the objects to a culling stage of the second pipeline for conservatively culling occluded objects utilizing the occluded image, and passing to a renderer remaining objects, wherein the renderer requires a second depth buffer with a second amount of storage greater than the first amount of storage" (emphasis added).

In response, applicant points out that independent Claims 67-79 are not limited to each of the features that the Examiner has highlighted above, for example. Simply nowhere in such claims is there any requirement of such emphasized language noted above.

Moreover, it is noted that some of the excerpts provided by the Examiner included "logic" and "means" limitations. In response, applicant notes that Claims 18-111 include some method and computer program product claims which do not include such limitations, and should not be limited as such. Applicant contends, however, that such claims are nevertheless allowable.

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In the Response to Rule 312 Communication, the Examiner has stated that "Applicant's method and computer program product claims including the steps of the method and the object of data structure are within the scopes of the statements cited in [the Notice] of Allowance."

However, applicant again points out that Claims 18-111 include some method and computer program product claims which do not include "logic" and "means" limitations, as cited by the Examiner in the Statement on Reasons for Allowance dated 8/16/2004.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NVIDP032A_P000874).

Respectfully submitted,

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